The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

May 2025 Newsletter

Upcoming IRC Meetings and Events:

June 13: Annual Radio Club auction at Salvation Army EDS Training Facility.
June 21: W9JP Indianapolis Radio Club POTA operating event at Fort Harrison St. Park
July 26: 3rd Annual "Picnic and POTA" at Fort Harrison State Park.

Highlights from the May Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Club President David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were 39 in attendance, including several guests. There were no new hams, members, or upgrades. David went over the stats from the club's April POTA outing, noting Robert Whited, W9PRK, who came down from Wheatfield, IN, about a 2 hour drive! Next, Kyle, KC9GLR announced that he is gathering GOTA (Get On The Air) station operators for the Indy United Field Day effort. Anyone that is a new ham or has been "generally inactive" is eligible to be a GOTA operator. Contact Kyle at gota@kc9glr.com if you're interested. Next, the Indiana QSO Party was discussed. Several of those present reported varying degrees of success in the INQP. David gave a recap of the Mini-Marathon, saying it was a success and commenting on the thrill of having thousands of runners pass by his location. Next, Doug, N9DR showed a Heathkit AM radio that he received as a gift (in kit form) in 1966. He said it still works, although he doesn't put batteries in it very often.

Next, David introduced our speaker for the evening, Jessica Franklin, Director of System Operations for AES Indiana. Jessica first asked for a show of hands of the engineers in

the room (there were several). Jessica started by talking about North America's power grid, which encompasses Canada, the US, and Mexico. AES Indiana buys (and sells excess) power through MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator). *[As a side note, on MISO's website, there are many near-real time displays available as to generating capacity, etc.]* She said the grid can shift quickly depending on loads. Jessica said that before the grid, there were many individual generating plants for commercial customers. Historically, she said that the first Hydro plants were built in 1870 and Indianapolis' "Perry K" plant was built in 1892. She said there has been lots of change in the past 5 years. AES IN has 3 wind farms, generating around 10% of IN daily consumption. There are also plans to put small nuclear generators online for high demand periods. Naturally, consumption mirrors the economy, with drops tracking the recession of 2009 and the pandemic lockdowns of 2020. She said big demand drivers now are the planned Data Centers. There are a few hundred engineers in the US that predict how to prevent blackouts, eliminating vulnerabilities in the grid. She said that solar storms can cause issues with distribution lines and terrestrial weather can affect loads.

On the distribution side, the high level power lines that run through Marion County are at 340 KV, while the "neighborhood distribution" lines are at 15 KV. She said that 3 major transmission lines have been lost so far this year due to severe storms. She talked about the "smart grid" system that is in place in the distribution system that can automatically reroute power as needed. She said there are pole mounted breakers at approximately every 400 customers. She said that AES IN strives for a maximum of 5% voltage deviation at the customer. After Jessica's presentation, there were a few good questions from those present.

To wrap up the night, Deb Elliot, KE9AXY won the $25 gift certificate from DX Engineering.

Ham Radio News:

DON'T FORGET HAMVENTION!

Here in Central Indiana, we are fortunate to be only a couple hours away from the largest Hamfest in the world, the Dayton (Xenia) Hamvention. Hamvention starts Friday, May 16 and runs through Sunday, May 18 at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, OH. There is on-site parking at the Fairgrounds that is "weather dependent" (It can get

muddy). There are also 2 large satellite parking areas with free shuttle buses running to and from the Fairgrounds.

There are many interesting forums scheduled, as well hundreds of vendors spread out over 6 buildings, and many more vendors in the "Flea Market" area on the Fairgrounds property. If you don't already have your tickets, they can be purchased for $30 each at the gate. More information can be found at https://hamvention.org/

If you can't make it this year, start planning for next year's show, May 15 through 17, 2026!

UPCOMING CLASSES

The Latter-Day Saints EmComm group is sponsoring Technician and General classes on June 21 and 28, 2025. The classes will be held at the Brownsburg/Clermont LDS Church at 9710 W. 56th Street, Clermont. Classes on the 21st will run 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, with a lunch break. On the 28th, the classes will start at 9:00 am with testing after lunch. Contact Bruce Enz, W9ENZ at bruceenz@gmail.com for more info or to sign up.

INDIANA HISTORICAL RADIO SOCIETY "SPRING FLING"

Coming up on Saturday, June 7 at 8:00 am, the Indiana Historical Radio Society will have their Spring meet at the Greensburg Knights of Columbus at 1308 W. Main St., Greensburg, IN 47240. Go to https://indianahistoricalradio.org/ for more information.

INDIANA QSO PARTY LOGS DUE JUNE 1

Over 400 logs have been received so far for the Indiana QSO Party. The deadline for logs to be mailed to inqp@hdxcc.org is June 1. Remember, your log needs to be a Cabillo log, as generated by your contest logging software. Even if you only made a few contacts, be sure to submit a log.

If you haven't already committed to supporting another club, please consider notating the Indianapolis Radio Club as your club when you submit. As of the writing of this, only 4

logs have been submitted supporting the Indianapolis Radio Club. If you have already submitted a log and want to support the IRC, you can re-submit.

ARRL APP HANDY FOR HAMVENTION

Again this year, the ARRL is making the free ARRL Event App available for use while at Hamvention. This free download is available in both iPhone and Android versions. Among the things you can do with the app is schedule the Forums you want to attend, keep track of vendor booths you want to check out, and keep track of where you want to go with maps of the grounds. One of the most handy things available is the updating list of Prize Drawing winners! For more information on the app, go to https://www.arrl.org/news/plan-your-hamvention-with-arrl-app

JUNE 21 IS THE NEXT CLUB POTA EVENT

The next Indianapolis Radio Club Parks on the Air (POTA) operating event will be Saturday, June 21 at Fort Harrison State Park. We will plan to be on the air by noon with 2 HF stations. We will be set up at our normal spot, in front of the Visitor Center. If you have heard of the POTA program, but not been able to take part, this is your chance! Even if you're not licensed for HF, there will be control operators on site to help get you on the air. Both radios will have 2 positions, one for the operator and one for a logger, in case you need help logging. As usual, we will be using the club's callsign of W9JP, but if you're registered with the POTA system, you will get credit for the QSOs you make. So, if you're new to HF or POTA, or even if you're an experienced operator, stop by on June 21. We'll try to make sure the new operators get a chance to get on the air, but with 2 radios, anyone that wants to get on should be able to.

This event is open to everyone, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE IRC to attend. As usual, we will have coffee, donuts, and water available for refreshments. Even if you don't want to operate, just stop on by to chat with everyone.

CLUB PICNIC AND POTA JULY 26

The Third Annual Indianapolis Radio Club "Picnic and POTA" is coming up on Saturday, July 26. Once again, we will be in the Cherry Tree Shelter at Fort Harrison

State Park. The club will again furnish hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, ice, and condiments. We'll also plan to have a couple of HF stations on the air to make some POTA contacts. Watch your email for an RSVP form.

ARRL FIELD DAY JUNE 28 - 29

For many hams, the highlight of the year is coming up on the weekend of June 28-29: ARRL Field Day. This "operating event" (technically not a contest) is where hams all over the US and Canada will set up temporary stations in fields, parks, or other places and try to make contact with other hams all over the place. While the Indianapolis Radio Club will not be putting on a Field Day site this year, many of our members will be joining with hams from other clubs for the Indy United Field Day event, held down in Morgan County. If you're interested in operating with the Indy United group, contact Brian Smith, W9IND at bdsmith@indy.net

A big part of Field Day is the Get On The Air (GOTA) station. GOTA operators can be new hams or hams that have been "generally inactive". GOTA operations are a great way to get into (or back into) the hobby. If you're interested in being a GOTA operator for the Indy United group, contact Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR at gota@kc9glr.com to find out about it.

For more general information about Field Day, go to https://www.arrl.org/field-day

W9DXCC CONVENTION COMING UP

Mark your calendars for the W9DXCC Convention, coming up September 12 and 13, in the Chicago suburb of Naperville. Once again, the Chicago Marriott Naperville will host the event, with the concurrent *DX University* and *Contest University* sessions taking place on Friday, September 12 and the W9DXCC Convention and Banquet happening on Saturday, September 13. Watch https://w9dxcc.com/ for program information and registration.

UPCOMING CENTRAL INDIANA TESTING SESSIONS (check with sponsor before planning to attend)

Franklin IN 46131-9733

Sponsor: Mid-State Amatuer Radio Club
Date: May 17 2025
Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick
(317) 432-7095
Email: vetestingmarc@yahoo.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Johnson County REMC Building
750 International Dr
Franklin IN 46131-9733
Website: https://midstatehams.org/

Anderson IN 46016
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club
Date: May 20 2025
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Stephen M. Riley
(765) 425-4627
Email: wa9cwe@arrl.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Madison County EMA EOC
300 N. Delaware St
GPS LOCATION:Â 119 N. Jackson St
Anderson IN 46016
Website: http://www.andersonrepeater.club/

Bloomington IN 47401-5337
Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc
Date: Jun 07 2025
Time: 11:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: William F. Wootton
(812) 327-5457
Email: KC9ACL@ARRL.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: First United Church - Call or email ahead due to COVID-19
2420 E 3rd St
Register at 11:30am
Testing at 12 NOON
Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Indianapolis IN 46254
Sponsor: Indianapolis Radio Club
Date: Jun 14 2025
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: James Kajder
(505) 228-3704
Email: testing@indyradioclub.org
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility
4020 Georgetown Rd
Register or Call ahead
Indianapolis IN 46254

Anderson IN 46016
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club
Date: Jun 17 2025
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Stephen M. Riley
(765) 425-4627
Email: wa9cwe@arrl.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Madison County EMA EOC
300 N. Delaware St
GPS LOCATION:Â 119 N. Jackson St
Anderson IN 46016
Website: http://www.andersonrepeater.club/

Franklin IN 46131-9733
Sponsor: Mid-State Amatuer Radio Club
Date: Jun 21 2025
Time: 9:30 AM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Contact: Jacqueline M. Frederick
(317) 432-7095
Email: vetestingmarc@yahoo.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Johnson County REMC Building

750 International Dr
Franklin IN 46131-9733
Website: https://midstatehams.org/

FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the May, 1976 *Amachewer*:

May 14th

Dr. Don Miller, W9NTP will be telling members and guests about slow-scan television, he will demonstrate his color slow-scan and slow-scan converter. Don has conducted many forums at numerous hamfests and is a pioneer in the development of slow-scan television for use on the amateur frequencies. Whether or not you are a slow-scan user, you will be interested in knowing about this interesting mode of communications from the person who played a major role in SSTV development. This will be one of our super meetings, so don't miss it. Refreshments after the meeting.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- Hamvention 2025: May 16 - 18 at Greene County Fair and Expo Center, Xenia, OH. More information available at https://hamvention.org/

- Van Wert (Ohio) Hamfest: July 20 at Van Wert County Fairgrounds, Van Wert, OH. More info at https://w8fy.org/
- East Central Indiana Hamfest: July 26 in Portland, IN. More info at https://sites.google.com/view/ecindianahamfest/home

2025 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – president@indyradioclub.org
- Vice Pres.: Jim Brown, WØRLD - vp@indyradioclub.org
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - secretary@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Dave Miller, K9RTT – board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kyle Bandy, KC9GLR - board@indyradioclub.org
- Dir. at large: Kevin Colbert, KD9MNB - board@indyradioclub.org
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - w9jp.trustee@indyradioclub.org

To Pay Dues or Donate to the club, go to https://tinyurl.com/irc-dues-payment

Or Scan this QR Code with your smartphone: